THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The National Manuscripts Mission persuades people to donate and preserve their manuscripts in Museums, Universities, Archives and reputed institutions having manuscripts libraries in their concerned areas. After establishment of the Mission in 2003, more than 20,000 manuscripts have been acquired by the institutions during survey and documentation. Besides this, the Mission has accepted about 400 manuscripts donated by individuals.

(b) The Mission is in the process of preparing a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in its possession title-wise, author-wise, subject-wise, script-wise, language-wise, place-wise and institution-wise.

(c) The manuscripts, in the possession of the National Manuscripts Mission, are preserved in the Mission's Headquarter in New Delhi.

Ardha Kumbh fair

†1510. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effective attempts were made to convey good wishes of Government to crores of devotees who come to the world famous Ardha Kumbh fair;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not conveying good wishes on this festival as are done on other festivals; and

(d) the names of the Ministries contributed to it?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The involvement of the Ministry of Culture was limited to organizing special cultural programmes through North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, during the Ardha Kumbh fair held at Allahabad in January, 2007.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.